

23. (Amended) The device of Claim 22, which is an electrically controllable system having variable optical properties or variable energy properties or both.

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cont.
24. (Amended) The device of Claim 22, wherein said higher-conductivity material comprises at least one layer combined with said electrically conducting layer and in electrical contact therewith.

25. (Amended) The device of Claim 22, wherein said higher-conductivity material is incorporated in said electrically conducting layer.

26. (Amended) The device of Claim 25, wherein said higher-conductivity material is incorporated in said electrically conducting layer, in the form of fibers or particles.

27. (Amended) The device of Claim 22, wherein said at least one electrically conducting layer comprises at least one doped metal oxide selected from the group consisting of doped tin oxide, doped zinc oxide and doped indium oxide.

29. (Amended) The device of Claim 27, wherein the doped zinc oxide is aluminum doped, tin doped or fluorine doped.

31. (Amended) The device of Claim 22, wherein said higher-conductivity material is essentially metallic.

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32. (Amended) The device of Claim 31, wherein said higher-conductivity material comprises a metal selected from the group consisting of Ag, Au, Cu, Al, and alloys of thereof.

33. (Amended) The device of Claim 22, wherein said multicomponent electrode is essentially transparent in the visible region.

34. (Amended) The device of Claim 22, wherein said network comprises a plurality of conducting strips obtained by screen printing using a paste-like suspension of a silver-type metal and a low-melting-point frit in an organic binder.

36. (Amended) The device of Claim 22 obtained by a process comprising:

screen-printing said network onto a glass-type carrier substrate to obtain a screen-printed network;

covering said screen-printed network with said at least one electrically conducting layer in order to form said multicomponent electrode; or

laying down said network on said electrically conducting layer covering said carrier substrate.

37. (Amended) The device of Claim 22, wherein said network comprises a plurality of conducting wires in the form of essentially metallic wires surface-laid on a sheet comprising a thermoplastic polymer.

38. (Amended) The device of Claim 22, wherein said network comprises a fabric, a net or a metallic nonwoven material.

39. (Amended) The device of Claim 38, wherein said network comprises metallic wires having a diameter of from 10 to 100 μm .

40. (Amended) The device of Claim 38, wherein said network is a network surface-laid on a sheet comprising a thermoplastic polymer.

41. (Amended) The device of Claim 22, wherein said network is obtained by etching or perforating a metallic layer or a metallic sheet.

42. (Amended) The device of Claim 22, wherein said multicomponent electrode comprises said at least one electrically conducting layer and at least one layer comprising said higher-conductivity material in electrical contact;

wherein at least one of said at least one electrically conducting layer and said at least one layer comprising said higher-conductivity material are optionally in contact with at least one layer comprising a dielectric material.

43. (Amended) The device of Claim 22, wherein said at least one layer comprising a dielectric material has an optical function, a function of anchoring said at least one layer comprising said higher-conductivity material to said carrier substrate or a function as a barrier to a migration of alkaline species coming from said carrier substrate which is glass.

44. (Amended) The device of Claim 43, wherein said at least one layer comprising a dielectric material comprises a member selected from the group consisting of metal oxide, silicon oxide, metal oxycarbide, silicon oxycarbide, metal oxynitride, silicon oxycarbide and silicon nitride.

45. (Amended) The device of Claim 22, wherein said multicomponent electrode comprises a sequence ITO/Ag/ITO or Ag/ITO with optional interposition of at least one thin layer of partially oxidized metal at an Ag/ITO interface.

46. (Amended) The device of Claim 22, wherein said multicomponent electrode is provided with current leads.

47. (Amended) The device of Claim 46, wherein said current leads are in the form of metal braids or shims.

48. (Amended) The device of Claim 22, which is an electrochromic system, with at least one carrier substrate and a stack of functional layers comprising at least, in succession,

a first electrically conducting layer,

an electrochemically active layer liable to reversible insertion of ions of anodic-coloring or, respectively, cathodic-coloring electrochromic material type,

a layer of electrolyte,

a second electrochemically active layer liable to reversible insertion of ions of anodic-coloring or, respectively, anodic-coloring electrochromic material

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continued

type, and

a second electrically conducting layer,

wherein at least one of said first and said second electrically conducting layer

comprises said electrically conducting layer comprising metal oxide(s); and

wherein at least one of said first and said second electrically conducting layer is part

of said multicomponent electrode.

50. (Amended) The device of Claim 48, wherein said ions are H^+ , Li^+ or OH^- .

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51. (Amended) The device of Claim 22, which is a viologenic system comprising at least one carrier substrate and a stack of functional layers comprising at least, in succession,

a first electrically conducting layer,

a film having viologenic properties in the form of a polymer, of a gel or of a suspension in a liquid medium, and

a second electrically conducting layer;

wherein at least one of said first and said second electrically conducting layer

comprises said electrically conducting layer comprising metal oxide(s); and

wherein at least one of said first and said second electrically conducting layer is part

of said multicomponent electrode.

54. (Amended) The device of Claim 52, wherein the layers are transparent or absorbent.

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55. (Amended) A glazing, comprising:

the device of Claim 22;

wherein said device uses as carrier substrate a) at least one rigid constituent substrate of a glazing or b) at least one flexible substrate combined by lamination with one rigid constituent substrate of said glazing or c) a combination of a) and b).